



CABINET OFFICE

LONDON SW1A 2AS

01-233-6566

20 December 1983

Ref: H01362

Dear Alan

Thank you for the very helpful letter about the John Costello's enquiries. I am glad to hear that there really is no known telegram on your side of which we had lost all track.

I can reciprocate about Professor Kimball. June Drever at No 10 can find no trace of any PREM files relating to exchanges between Churchill and Roosevelt prior to 7 December 1941 which have been released to the PRO in the last ten years. The Inspecting Officer the Cabinet Office shares with No 10, formerly Ron Anslow, now Dennis Ashton, has been through the list of Lord Chancellor's Instruments and can find no trace of any reference to the release of closed documents in the PREM series after the mass release of Second World War material in December 1981, nor of any further documents being accessioned into either PREM 3 or PREM 4 after 1972. So I think if Professor Kimball was satisfied that he had seen all that was available when he was over, he can be satisfied that he has seen it all.

Turning to the Cruickshank SOE in the Far East, it is an attempt to get the best of both the public service and the private publishing worlds, now the money for official histories is so restricted. The Oxford University Press was willing, despite remarkably stringent conditions (even to HMG's retaining the right to withhold consent to publish, after seeing the text), to fund the historian and the publication, and HMG was willing to give access to the historian, making him, in effect, an Official Historian, subject to a p.v. and further stringent requirements about working only in our secure premises, and not taking anything except his biro out of them, or using outside typing services etc, ... The manuscript was heavily scrutinised at the end of the day and OUP has successfully brought out the work.

I rather hope to get two more on similar terms but they are not yet agreed.

Yours

A handwritten signature, likely of Mrs H E Forbes, consisting of a stylized 'H' and 'F'.

(MRS H E FORBES)

Edwin A Thompson
Director National Archives and Records Service
WASHINGTON DC 20408
USA